

Reconceptualising Hegemonic Masculinity in Postcolonial India Is Crucial in the Construction of Nationhood

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Abstract – The concept of hegemonic masculinity is defined as a practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and justifies the subordination of the common male population and women another marginalized ways of being a man. My paper shows how the dominant man subjugates other men, women, and society. Reconstruction of hegemonic masculinity is crucial in the construction of nationhood. This research reveals that reconceptualisation or reconstruction of hegemonic masculinity with new formations of masculinity exist in opposition to existing ones and are healthier for men and less harmful for women. Contemporary hegemonic masculinity is built on two legs, domination of women and hierarchy of intermale domination. Postcolonial India has become obsolete and is in need of rejuvenation and rethought. I thought that masculine characteristics may help to built strong nationalism. How westerners had dominance over third world by their hegemonic masculinity, like that our Indian young male also inculcates those idealized hegemonic qualities in them. Such as courage, toughness, physical strength, athleticism, risk-taking, adventure, thrill seeking, competitiveness, achievement and success are dominant forms of masculinity is crucial in the construction of strong nationhood.

Key Words: Hegemonic, Postcolonial India, Masculinity, Nationhood or Nationalism

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INTRODUCTION

The concept hegemonic masculinity is defined as a practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and justifies the subordination of the common male population and women, and other marginalized ways of being a man. Conceptually, hegemonic masculinity proposes to explain how and why men maintain dominant social roles over women, and other gender identities. The nature of hegemonic masculinity derives from the theory of cultural hegemony by Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci. This analyses the power of relation among the social classes of a society. In gender studies, hegemonic masculinity is part of R.W.Cnnel's gender order theory, which recognizes multiple masculinities that very across time, culture and the individual. The conceptual beginnings of hegemonic masculinity represented the culturally idealized form of manhood that was social and hierarchically exclusive and concerned with bread-winning; that was anxiety-provoking and differentiated (internally and hierarchically) that was brutal and violent pseudo-natural and tough Psychologically contradictory, thus crisis prone economically rich and socially sustained. This is that really exist hegemonic masculinity but I want to explore reconceptualising hegemonic

masculinity and ideal hegemonic masculinity which is opposition to existing hegemonic masculinity and it is crucial to in the construction of nationhood.

OBJECTIVE OF MY PAPER

- ▶ To analyze the concept of hegemonic masculinity in postcolonial India.
- ▶ To examine the relationship between hegemonic masculinity and nationalism.
- ▶ To see the ideal hegemonic masculinity in postcolonial India is crucial in the construction of nationhood.
- ▶ To understand post-colonial India is in need of reconstruction of Hegemonic masculinity with news formation of masculinities exist in opposition to existing ones and are healthier for men and less harmful for women.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The conceptual beginnings of hegemonic masculinities represented the culturally idealized

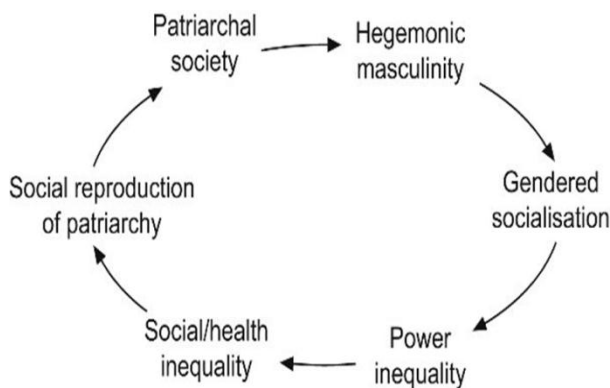
form of manhood, in theoretical approach it is sociologic concept, the nature of hegemonic masculinity derives from the theory of cultural hegemony, by Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci and in Gender studies hegemonic masculinity is part of R.W. Connell's gender other theory which recognizes multiple masculinities that vary across time, culture and the individual. I am going to design my research on reconceptualisation of hegemonic masculinity reconstruct the hegemonic masculinity, according importance of nationalism with new formation of masculinity in young male of postcolonial India achieve hegemonic masculinity with the qualities of courage mastery over the language, toughness, physical strength, athleticism, risk taking, adventure and thrill-seeking, competitiveness and achievement and success is crucial to construct nationhood with this my paper shows idealized form of, manhood is healthier for men and less harmful for women.

OVERVIEW ON TOPIC

◆ **Reconceptualising hegemonic masculinity in postcolonial India**

The conceptual beginnings of hegemonic masculinity represented the culturally idealized form of manhood, that was socially and hierarchically exclusive and concerned with bread winning; that was anxiety provoking and differentiated (internally and hierarchically); that was brutal and violent, Pseudo-natural and tough, Psychologically contradictory and thus crisis prone; economically rich and socially sustained.

The cyclical pattern of how hegemonic masculinity is produced reproduced and perpetuated



Hegemonic masculinity from some of its historical roots from both the fields of social psychology and sociology which contributed to the literature about the male sex role that had begun to recognize the social nature of masculinity and the possibilities of change in men's conduct. This literature preceded the women's liberation movement and feminist theories of patriarchy which also played a strong role in shaping the concept of hegemonic masculinity. The core concepts of power and difference were found in the gay liberation movement which had not only sought to analyze the oppression of men but

also oppression by men. This idea of a hierarchy of masculinities has since persisted and strongly influenced the reformulation of the concept.

RECONCEPTUALISING THE CONCEPT IN POSTCOLONIAL:

Postcolonial India has become obsolete and is in need of rejuvenation and rethought. I thought that masculine characteristics such as courage, power, toughness, physical strength, athleticism, risk-taking, adventure, bravery, thrill-seeking, competitiveness and achievement and success, these positive masculine characters paved the way for rejuvenation of India. And these may help to achieve equality, strong nationalism in India. These are the ideal forms of manhood. The reconceptualising hegemonic masculinity happens with new formations of masculinities exist in opposition to existing ones and are healthier for men and less harmful for women. By developing the ideal masculine dominance/ developing the ideal hegemonic manly characters such as truth, strong leadership, power, physical strength, scholarship, independence, role behaviors and initiatives taking in postcolonial Indian young males. Is essential for construction of nationhood.

The mythology of gender dominant within cultural representations of males, reflecting normative behavioral ideas for males in a culture in particular period (regardless of the actual prevalence of such behavior in that society). Such representations promote stereotypical masculine heterosexual values. Also, those men who exemplify, perform, and perpetuate the mythology of dominant masculinity, who are implicated in this subordination of women and men who represent marginalized masculinities (such as gay men). In contemporary western cultures, masculinity is typically associated with personality traits such as independence and competitiveness, role behaviors such as being the primary provider and initiative-taking and physical characteristics such as masculinity and a deep voice. However the form of masculinity occupying the hegemonic position in culture at any particular time is always contestable (oxford reference).

HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY CRUCIAL IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONHOOD:

Men in patriarchal settings were irrefutably the favored class; an esteemed group that grew from childhood to manhood culturally imbued with notions that made them believe they were superior and had multiple privileges, including inherent rights to dominate. Where matrilinealism diffused such masculine confidence, colonialism, which was uniformly patriarchal in its verbal and non-verbal expressions and social exportations in

the continent, undermine non patriarchal hegemonic masculinities.

Just as masculinity is crucial in the construction of nationhood, masculinities are also significant in the making and unmaking transnational communities. Indian men negotiate and perform respectable masculinity in transnational settings, such as the workplace, community, and family. I agree with Gandhi's model of hegemonic masculinity it is a kind of idealized hegemonic masculinity is crucial in the construction of nationhood in postcolonial India.

GANDHI'S MODEL OF HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONHOOD:

The term colonial masculinity includes nations of masculinity of the colonizer and colonized men. The British rules over India become a reality after the defeat of the Marathas in 1818. It was a difficult task for a handful British to dominate a populous and vast country like India with only physical power. It was important to subjugate the minds of the Indians. This subjugation was interplay of masculinity. At the time Gandhi was the leader of disarmed army of poor and dumb millions. He had to redesign and redefine the traditional concept of masculinity to suit the condition of India. Gandhi's model of masculinity was designed combine the best features of eastern and western culture after removing their defects. Gandhi knew that it was difficult to compete British imperialist masculinity with physical power; so he gave emphasis on moral superiority. By presenting this new model of masculinity Gandhi wanted to remove the inferiority complex from the minds of Indian men.

FINDINGS:

- ▶ Reconceptualising hegemonic masculinity is crucial in the construction of nationhood.
- ▶ Reconceptualising hegemonic masculinity with new formations such as we must give emphasis on moral superiority with physical power.
- ▶ Every man inculcates idealized forms of manhood such as bravery, truth, moral dominance, risk taking, achievement and success, is crucial in the construction of nationhood.
- ▶ To remove the inferiority complex from the minds of Indian young men.

CONCLUSION:

This paper illustrates the concept of hegemonic masculinity is having dominance qualities is associated with men, that is, masculinity has to do with particular traits and qualities. Rather than with

biology. Masculinity defines relationship among and between men and women. In postcolonial India, it has got new formations, these formations made reconceptualising hegemonic masculinity. I'm agreeing with Gandhi's model of masculinity and it is idealized form of manhood. Reconceptualising masculinity through removing the inferiority complex from the minds of our Indian young men. To give them that moral education and moral dominance to achieve hegemonic masculinity and it is crucial in the construction of nationhood.

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